

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR, JR:LG
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038156

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, CSCE, SCUL, SHUM, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: FAMILY REUNIFICATION: VEST'S TALK WITH
POLISH CHARGE

REF: STATE 29570

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST CALLED IN POLISH CHARGE
PAWLISZEWSKI ON FEBRUARY 9 TO DISCUSS FAMILY REUNIFI-
CATION AND FAMILY VISIT QUESTIONS. VEST BEGAN BY
EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO CLEAR THE DECKS BEFORE THE NEW
POLISH AMBASSADOR ARRIVES. VEST EXPLAINED THAT IN
PARTICULAR HE THOUGHT IT ADVISABLE TO REGISTER OUR
CONCERN ABOUT THE SLOW PACE OF PROGRESS ON FAMILY
REUNIFICATION.

2. RECALLING HIS OWN PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSIONS
THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD HELD WITH FIRST
SECRETARY GIEREK AND WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK
IN WARSAW, VEST SAID WE HAD BEEN LEFT WITH THE DISTINCT
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IMPRESSION THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND OTHER POLISH
OFFICIALS WOULD LOOK SERIOUSLY AT THESE MATTERS, IN
PARTICULAR--THE CASES OF PIKE-BIEGUNSKI, KOTLARZ AND
KENNEDY-STROJEK. VEST SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE MAY
HAVE BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON BIEGUNSKI. BUT HE SAID

WE ARE ESPECIALLY PERPLEXED THAT THERE SHOULD BE ANY
DELAY IN THE CASE OF KOTLARZ, BECAUSE WE HAVE A CON-
SULAR UNDERSTANDING THAT COVERS SUCH SITUATIONS. VEST

INDICATED WE STILL HAVE NO RESPONSE FOLLOWING THE POLISH PROMISE TO REVIEW THESE AND THE KENNEDY-STROJEK CASE.

3. OBSERVING THAT AN UNFORTUNATE ATMOSPHERE DEVELOPS THE LONGER THESE AND OTHER FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES GO UNRESOLVED, VEST CONTINUED THAT HE MUST STRESS THAT FAMILY REUNIFICATION HAS BEEN OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE PRESIDENT FROM THE MOMENT HE TOOK OFFICE. MOREOVER, BESIDES THE HIGHEST-LEVEL CONCERN IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, THERE IS REAL INTEREST IN CONGRESS AND AMONG THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

4. CAUTIONING THAT THE REMARKS THAT FOLLOW ARE NOT MEANT AS A THREAT, VEST OBSERVED THAT WE HAVE A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN WHICH THE LEADERSHIP IS RESPONSIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION. IT IS THUS A MATTER OF FACT, NOT OF POLICY, THAT IF THERE DEVELOPS A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE AMONG AMERICANS CONCERNING POLAND'S POSTURE ON FAMILY REUNIFICATION, THIS WILL LEAD TO A DETRIMENTAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN CONGRESS ON OTHER MATTERS AS WELL, AND THIS COULD AFFECT POLAND'S ABILITY TO SECURE THE LOANS AND CREDITS IT SEEKS FROM THE U.S. VEST CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT HE EMPHASIZED THIS POSSIBILITY
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IN A FRIENDLY WAY, FOR IT IS IMPORTANT THAT POLISH LEADERS UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE WE ATTACH TO THESE QUESTIONS AND THE EFFECT THAT FAILURE TO RESOLVE THEM COULD HAVE.

5. VEST THEN CITED THE RELATED QUESTION OF VISA REFUSALS WHICH HE RECALLED THAT EE DIRECTOR ANDREWS HAD RAISED WITH PAWLISZEWSKI RECENTLY (REFTEL). VEST EXPLAINED THAT SUCH APPARENTLY ARBITRARY DENIALS OF VISAS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS COULD ALSO HAVE A DAMAGING IMPACT ON AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD POLAND WHICH WOULD LIKEWISE PRODUCE A NEGATIVE ATMOSPHERE ON OTHER ISSUES. CONCLUDING, VEST REITERATED THAT HE WANTED TO RAISE THESE MATTERS NOW IN HOPES WE CAN RESOLVE THEM BEFORE AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI ARRIVES.

6. PAWLISZEWSKI REPLIED THAT HIS EMBASSY HAS A REPORT FROM WARSAW ABOUT THE DISCUSSION DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. HE SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THE THREE CASES VEST HAD MENTIONED ARE BEING INVESTIGATED AS HAD BEEN PROMISED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE A

REPORT ON THE OUTCOME. HE SAID TWO OF THE CASES ARE RELATIVELY NEW, BUT THE KENNEDY-STROJEK CASE IS AN OLD ONE. IT IS A SECURITY MATTER, AND PAWLISZEWSKI

EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT A FAVORABLE DECISION WOULD COME FROM THIS "SECOND REVIEW" OF THE CASE. HE NOTED THAT MRS. STROJEK IS FREE TO VISIT POLAND WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. PAWLISZEWSKI ADDED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS OTHER CASES OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION ARE BEING REVIEWED AND PROMISED TO LET US KNOW THE RESULTS.

7. CONCERNING VISA REFUSALS, PAWLISZEWSKI CITED STANDARD ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF REFUSAL, NOTING THAT "TWO TO THREE THOUSAND" ARE REFUSED ANNUALLY BY THE U.S. HE FURTHER STRESSED THAT IN SOME CASES
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THERE IS A BLATANT DISREGARD OF POLISH REGULATIONS: PEOPLE GO ABROAD AND ASSUME FOREIGN CITIZENSHIP, WHILE REFUSING TO RENOUNCE THEIR POLISH CITIZENSHIP AND ABIDE BY POLISH LAWS. SUCH PEOPLE SHOULD RETURN TO POLAND, SETTLE THEIR AFFAIRS AND THEN EMIGRATE IF THEY WANT. WHEN THEY ARE ABROAD THEY CREATE PRESSURE WHICH PUTS POLAND IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION SINCE IT MUST UPHOLD ITS LAWS. IN ANY CASE, PAWLISZEWSKI SAID, HE HAD SENT TO WARSAW THE THREE CASES RAISED BY ANDREWS AND WOULD LET US KNOW THE RESULTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THERE ARE NOT MANY SUCH CASES AND HE HOPES THERE WILL BE EVEN FEWER. FINALLY, HE PROMISED TO TRANSMIT TO WARSAW VEST'S PRESENTATION AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO RESOLVE THESE CASES, BUT HE NOTED THAT THERE IS LITTLE TIME BEFORE AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI ARRIVES, AS HE HAD JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT SPASOWSKI WILL NOW ARRIVE ABOUT FEBRUARY 23 OR 24.

8. THE BALANCE OF DISCUSSION INVOLVED THE STATUS OF OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS TO FOLLOW-UP VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS RAISED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT SUCH AS COOPERATION IN COAL RESEARCH, FISHING QUESTIONS, AVIATION, AND OTHER MATTERS. LITTLE OF THIS WAS NEW; THE SIGNIFICANT POINTS ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. VANCE

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